

Finding Differences

The goal of this game is to practice finding differences using randomly selected numbers.

Two Players

Materials

- Number cards -
- Counters (pennies, buttons, candy, mini figures)

How to Play

The cards are shuffled and put face down in a stack.

Each player turns over one card. Players decide who has the greater number, and then figure out how much “more” that player has. The player who has “more” takes the quantity of counters that equals the difference between the two players’ numbers.

Example

Player 1 turns over a 3. Player 2 turns over a 9. Player 2 has the greater number which is 6 more than Player 1’s, so Player 2 takes 6 counters.

Player continues until all the cards have been drawn. Players count their counters, and the player with more counters wins the game.

Super Duper opportunity to talk about thinking!

- What have you noticed while playing this game?
- Convince me that ____ is much more than ____.
- When you take a lot of counters in a turn, what do you notice about the two numbers drawn?
- What do you notice about the amount of counters you get when both numbers are close together?

Variation

Each player turns over two cards and makes the greatest two-digit number possible. The players then determine who has the greater number, and using pencil and paper, figure out the difference between the two numbers. The player who has “more” gives himself points equal to the difference between the two numbers. When all the cards in the facedown stack are gone, the player with points wins the game.

Example

Player 1 draws a 6 and a 7, and makes 76. Player 2 draws a 1 and a 3, and makes 31. Player 1 has the greater number, in this case, 45 more, so Player 1 scores 45 points for this round.